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Abom language

Abom is a nearly extinct language spoken in the Western Province of Papua New Guinea. According to a 2002 census, only 15 people still speak this language, all elderly.

All of the speakers are older adults. Middle-aged adults have some understanding of it, but no children speak or understand Abom.

Abom is spoken in Lewada (8.335225°S 142.780449°E), Mutam (8.424996°S 142.930364°E), and Tewara (8.374194°S 142.45638°E) villages of Gogodala Rural LLG.[3][4]

Abom	
Region	Papua New Guinea
Native speakers	15 (2002)[1]
Language family	Trans–New Guinea ▪ **Abom**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	aob
Glottolog	abom1238 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/abom1238)[2]

Map: The Abom language of New Guinea

- The Abom language (located bottom center, to the west of the gulf)
- Other Trans–New Guinea languages
- Other Papuan languages
- Austronesian languages
- Uninhabited

Contents

Classification
References
Bibliography
External links

Classification

Abom is not close to other languages. Pawley and Hammarström (2018) classify Abom as a divergent Tirio language on the basis of morphological evidence; Abom shares the same gender ablaut pattern as other Tirio languages.[5] Evans (2018), however, lists Abom as a separate branch of Trans-New Guinea.[6] Suter & Usher find that it is not an Anim language (the Trans–New Guinea family that includes the Tirio languages), but does appear to be divergent Trans–New Guinea.[7] Part of the problem is many recorded Abom words are loans from the Inland Gulf languages, reducing the material needed for comparison.

References

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6. Evans, Nicholas (2018). "The languages of Southern New Guinea". In Palmer, Bill (ed.). *The Languages and Linguistics of the New Guinea Area: A Comprehensive Guide*. The World of Linguistics. **4**. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton. pp. 641–774. ISBN 978-3-11-028642-7.
7. [1] (https://sites.google.com/site/newguineaworld/families/trans-new-guinea/abom)

Bibliography

- "Sociolinguistic survey of the Tirio language family", Tim Jore and Laura Aleman. Unpublished Manuscript.
- "Endangered languages listing: ABOM [aob]" (https://web.archive.org/web/20150724014439/http://www-01.sil.org/pacific/png/endangered/Abom.pdf) (PDF). Archived from the original (http://www-01.sil.org/pacific/png/endangered/Abom.pdf) (PDF) on 2015-07-24. Retrieved 2014-05-06.

External links

- Timothy Usher, New Guinea World, Abom (https://sites.google.com/site/newguineaworld/families/trans-new-guinea/abom)
- OLAC resources in and about the Abom language (http://www.language-archives.org/language/aob)
- ELAR collection: Documentation and description of Bitur and preliminary investigation of the moribund Abom language (https://elar.soas.ac.uk/Collection/MPI1035092) deposited by Phillip Rogers

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